UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC 20250

For: State and County Offices

PSD and ITSD Development of ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool Application

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs

---

1 Overview

A Background

PSD and ITSD are developing an FSA ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool application that is scheduled to be deployed in selected Service Centers for beta testing soon. This tool will provide FSA County Offices with an ArcGIS application designed to maintain the grain storage data in a Microsoft SQL database running with ArcSDE on a server in the Service Center. This application customizes the ArcGIS software that is installed on the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) workstation and uses the Structured Query Language (SQL) server database installed on the Common Computing Environment (CCE) server.

When fully implemented, using GIS will allow FSA to replace the current system of manually mapping and tracking grain storage bin locations on price support farm-stored loan applications and photos, and lessen a series of time consuming manual tasks. GIS also allows FSA to strengthen program delivery by providing more complete, accurate, and timely services to its customers. GIS serves to eliminate paper processes and increase the quality of products such as accurate digitized maps instead of manually marked-up photos.

FSA plans to accelerate the deployment of the ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool and complete nationwide data implementation in 2007. The ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool application will gather data from the Service Center Information Management System (SCIMS) to assist with the data collection.

B Purpose

This notice informs State and County Offices of the following:

- phase 1 of the ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool pilot dates
- phase 2 of the ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool pilot dates
- phase 1 pilot site selections
- communication during the pilot
- training modules and user guide.

Disposal Date	Distribution
December 1, 2007	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

1 Overview (Continued)

C Contact

State Offices shall direct questions about this notice to Stacy Carroll by either of the following:

- telephone at 202-690-8037
- e-mail to **stacy.carroll@wdc.usda.gov**.

2 ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool Phase 1 Beta Test Deployment

A Phase 1 Deployment Schedule

In the initial beta test phase, the ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool application will be deployed to 17 Service Centers participating in the pilot. Phase 1 contains the GIS feature editing components for the application. The following sites will be participating in phase 1 of the pilot.

State	County
Kansas	Washington
Maryland	Carroll
	Frederick
	Kent
Minnesota	Blue Earth
	Renville
	Dakota
Ohio	Auglaize
	Darke
Nebraska	Antelope
	Gage
	Holt
	Lincoln/Logan/McPherson
	Boyd
New York	Cayuga
	Livingston
	Seneca

3   ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool Phase 2 Beta Test Deployment

A   Phase 2 Deployment Schedule

Early in 2007, the second phase of the pilot will be deployed and include changes to the database. Additions to the application that will allow for farm-stored loan:

* certification
* spot-checking.

Approximately 150 Service Centers will be targeted during this 2nd phase to increase the number of sites that will participate in the pilot. These sites will be selected by PSD at a future date. This 2nd pilot will allow for comments and feedback from the State GIS personnel which may require changes to be made before national deployment.

4   ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool Application Process

A   Process for Site Selection

The selection of the 17 beta counties was determined based on the highest number for loan activity in each State. PSD will determine future beta counties when implementing the Phase 2 of the ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool application.

B   Communication Process

State GIS specialists and coordinators shall ensure communication with SED's and CED's and inform Price Support Specialists of ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool software deployment start dates and status information. Over time, PSD will be conducting meetings with State and County Offices, including the State GIS specialist, to discuss updates and the status of the ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool application to ensure a successful nationwide deployment.

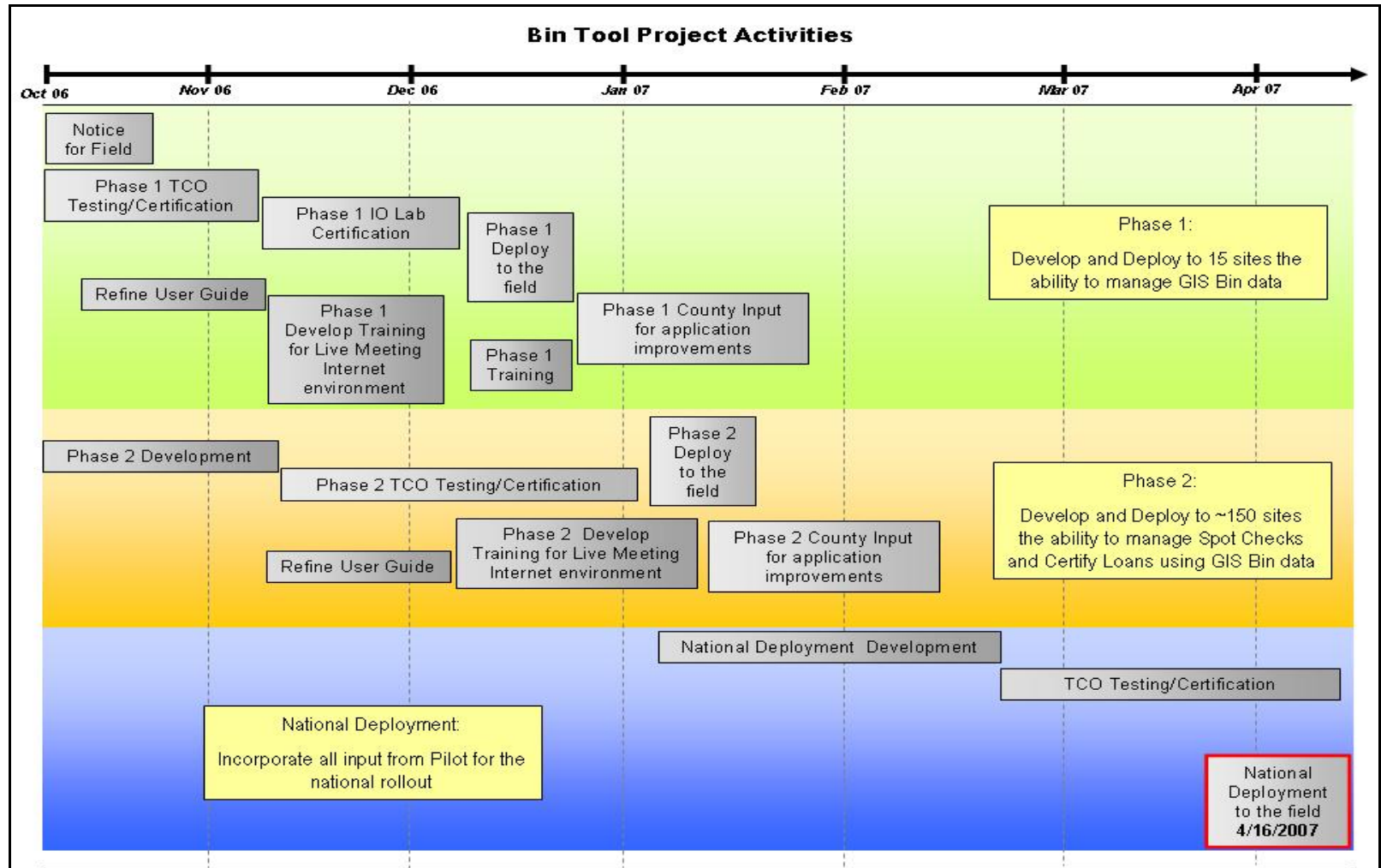**C   Training Modules and User Guide**

In the future, a range of training methods will be available and tailored for FSA personnel about the ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool use. Training modules and a user guide will also be provided to educate State and County Office employees on ArcGIS software and specifically on the ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool. No existing knowledge of GIS or the bin tool will be required.

D   Process Model

The following is a process model to show current, as well as future dates, to depict how the rollout and deployment of the ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool will occur. Phase 1 and Phase 2 development activity will occur at the same time. Additional documentation and user requirements will be provided in the future as needed to support the Phase 2 development.

4   Grain Storage Bin Tool Application Process (Continued)

D   Process Model (Continued)

5   Action

A   State Office Action

Each State Office GIS specialist:

- is responsible for ensuring that all State and County Office employees have the required GIS software and tools on their computers, as required for the selected pilot sites

- shall identify for the National Office who the Service Center employees are who will be receiving training for the Phase 1 pilot.

B   County Office Action

To use the ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool, County Office employees that use GIS shall ensure that they have the current GIS software and tools on their computers, as applicable.